9+ years of waiting in vain…

I am putting down on a piece of paper (my computer) various events that have happened in the past almost 10 years, and it's taking me a little longer because the whole narrative can become very complex and confusing, on the one hand. And on the other hand, I do not think that the justice can be served if we focus only on the past 6-7 months. This is simply because many of the problems and issues that slowly intensified in the past 6-7 months have their root in times prior to my employment.

For example: I'll focus on one event that had and still has very negative consequences on every segment of my life. In April of 2022 an incident happened at the Holy Cross Greek Church in Belmont, CA that resulted in criminal charges being filed against me. Initially, the Metropolitan argued that the incident was personal in character and that it relates only between me and the family involved (it happened to be the Belmont's priest – Rev. P. Salmas) and that the Metropolis/Metropolitan have nothing to do with what has happened. He was saying this even though on the day/night when this happened I went to Church as his assistant and employee (contractor under the 2018 contract) of the Metropolis. Only after I found out that the incident reached the San Matteo Criminal Court and that the criminal charges have been filed against me, the Metropolitan's "stand" changed and from that moment the incident became "business related." This was because he was afraid that if I were to be found guilty in the Criminal Court, the father or the family, were going to sue him or the Metropolis or the Archdiocese in civil courts. As a result of that case, which in my estimation, especially after I have seen the level of lies that ended up in the Police report (– police was contacted 2 days after the incident and I never had any opportunity to have my side of the story (unless two instances when the family of the "victim" was asking for the letter of apology and when they realized that they will get no written apology from me they continued with their very sneaky and dishonest games, demanding for a letter that would supposedly present my side of the story while in fact they were seeking anything from me through which I would incriminate myself). Everyone, including the Metropolitan and Deacon Justine (Metropolis's legal advisor) were in favor of me writing something hoping that that would eventually calm them down. Only after my vehement opposition to any type of writing they concurred that it's better not to write anything. And my suspicions proved to be true. What was in fact the underlining intention was to get out from me anything that they could use against me because they never said that the police was called, that they are planning to

press charges, etc.). Because of the pending criminal case against me I lost my living accommodation at one of the Roman-Catholic Churches in San Francisco, I was removed and placed "on hold" or "stand by" and stopped traveling with the Metropolitan, my emigration papers, for which I applied completely alone without any help from the Metropolis and the Metropolitan (even though legally and morally that was the responsibility of the Metropolis) have been additionally and unnecessarily delayed, I have not been able to leave the country, or to move from a state of "waiting" for a few years while the case was pending. After the case was finally dismissed by the Judge in January of 2024, in my view the Metropolitan did nothing to somehow reinstate me, and truly nothing has changed concerning me and my status in regards to him or the Metropolis. Because I firmly believed that gross wrong has been done against me, because this case will be something that will have negative consequences on me for years to come, I was saying that I will press charges against the individuals who gave false testimonies to the police for slander, defamation, libel, etc., because their lies and conduct were destroying someone's life, someone's stand in the society, have extremely negative consequences towards someone to whom they (the Metropolis) should be first to help but instead are the ones who are destroying life. Metropolitan's reply to this was always one and same: "If you want to work for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese/Metropolis you cannot file any charges against anyone." I will present only one instance where the Belmont case had a direct impact, which neither the Metropolitan Gerasimos or his Chancellor Bishop John, not only failed to acknowledge but also without any shame and without any decency attempted and, they maybe did, I don't know because when/how/why, at least for the hourly paid employees, hours are "trimmed," I have never been told – to take the hours off from my paycheck:

After my trip to Colombia in late November of 2024, upon my return to the USA, while I was going through the custom, I was asked by the emigration officer if I had any arrests or court cases, I said I did and tried to explain briefly what happened. The officer, after I explained and answered his questions, sent me to another "room" for an additional investigation. In that room two officers were interrogating me with threats that they will detain me, then that they will send my Green Card to court for, "judge to decide what to do with it," then one of the officer's, after I tried to clarify some of the facts, yelled at me saying, "You are just like my wife. That's how she just talks without listening first." After all those intimidations, the second officer took me to another "room," I was basically in the room that is within the larger room that is within larger airport space, and explained to me that regardless of the outcome of the case I should always have with me the official and certified court documents whenever I leave the country

until I become a citizen because until I become a citizen I will be stopped by the emigration officers because of the criminal court case. Needless to say, all these resulted in me missing my flight and consequently running late for my trip with the Metropolitan and the Bishop to San Luis Obispo. Even though I told them what has happened and why I was delayed neither one showed any concern or understanding, but the Bishop John proceeded to tell me on a few different occasions that because I did not travel with them to San Luis Obispo he will take two days off from my pay check.

I am wondering what incentive or desire to work would anyone have if he were to be faced with bosses, managers, employers like Bishop John or Metropolitan Gerasimos. I would expect some bad and dishonest actions by some of the employers, but the level I was faced at the Metropolis is beyond belief.

After the dismissal of the case and while he was supposedly working on creating my position and employment by the Metropolis (it literally took them from December 2023 until June 2024 to create my position just as how long it took them to set the scene to fire me), Metropolitan continued emphasizing the need of me going to Mount Athos under the pretext of me learning Greek, Byzantine chant, and liturgics that were somehow not satisfactory after more than 25 years of studying theology (high-school, college, 2 masters, and unfinished doctorate in Berkeley) while on the other hand he was ordaining individuals with only 3 months of summer school session into the same rank that the initial plan was for me. Until as late as this past December of 2024 Metropolitan nourished the idea of me going to Mt. Athos. After everything that just happened I genuinely believe that the Mt. Athos was just an excuse to get rid of me and send me across the ocean. I have to notice another change in his reasoning for sending me to Mt. Athos. As I mentioned above, the initial ideas for my need to go to Mt. Athos were my "educational insufficiencies," however, that story changed in November and December and the need for my going to Mt. Athos was, "my active sexual life" that Metropolitan observed and concluded based on my, "late night showers, going out in the middle of the night, or not sleeping in the house." This comment made me exceptionally annoyed, disappointed, and depressed, because only a month or two ago when I told him via text message about the action of his good friend Metropolitan Nikitas, his responses were the following: initial silence about my message until I myself asked him for his thoughts, then his admittance that, "that message was very disturbing and that he deleted it from his phone," and finally to ask me, "what do I want him to do about that" and that he has, "nothing to do with that and that that is simply an issue of "relationship" between me and Nikitas." The

level of hypocrisy and insensitivity and complete absence of any pastoral care were again something that made me totally speechless. I am trying to imagine any victim of any type of violence to come someone to ask for help, even just listening and nothing else, to be told, "that concerns – relationship – between you and your perpetrator." The Mt. Athos question finally ceased to be topic of any interest after if I clearly and plainly asked some questions: 1) what will be with my employment and salary while I was abroad, and 2) what is the outcome or what will happen after 6 months on Mt. Athos. To the first question response was, I'll get paid "a stipend," of $1,000 while the work will be supposedly kept for me, and the response for the second question was a mere silence. After that I just responded that it would be insane of someone who had been waiting for 10 years to get a normal job, to get up and leave that job, and go somewhere where he will be again be paid minimal or have no pay. And I concluded that I will just remain where I am and work what I was given.

Also, after my observation of the events that have been going on for the past 6-7 months or so, I am more and more convinced that the whole saga of my employment was developing and had one and only direction and intention, and that is to fire me. Even though I have not been fired officially yet and I don't see my future with the individuals involved in all these events (read, Greeks), I firmly believe that "firing" had been in preparation for a while (at least 3-4 months if not even more than that). Ultimately, I don't think the Greeks have ever had the intention of hiring me, and that the whole hiring scheme, which came only after my vehement cry and yell to the Metropolitan, "just give me a fucking job," in December of 2023, in addition to some 8-9 years of "waiting around" to be hired, had the intention of getting rid of me.

Due to enormous amount of years that have passed and my patient and sincere belief that at the end, "goodness will somehow prevail," and that individuals in-charge with responsibilities of being Church leaders will recognize my dedication, sacrifice, talents, when I more and more started realizing that literally, "no one gives a …," particularly with the structure of a full time employment, I was increasingly more and more disheartened and despondent. Because of the Belmont case and regardless of its dismissal outcome, I was marked by something that came as my sincere self-giving to the Metropolitan and Metropolis" and waiting all these years to be hired, I was making it very clear and transparent, I was not going to leave and walk away and get lost and my story to disappear in darkness and have all those consequences following me for years while Metropolitan, Metropolis, and any other responsible individual to enjoy peace as if nothing has happened. I just could not let go and a decade long involvement in something to end up with

complete loss. And this complete loss from something into which I have invested 10 years of my life is not relevant to losing "only" 10 years of one's life, but also losing years of my past that has consequences for my life and existence in the future. I invested so many years, so much time and energy, in something that should have ended up in hiring by the Metropolis of San Francisco. And just for the sake of it, let's assume that it did not have to end up in any hiring, but if it did not need to end up in any hiring it should not have ended up damage that for the most part I will be suffering the consequences for many years to come. And even though I did end up with finally getting, "a full time job with all the benefits like everyone else," the initial discussion and tentative plan was me to be a deacon for the Metropolitan. After years of waiting, I was given a job of "assistant" to someone else, which "killed two birds with one stone:" it gave me a satisfaction of having a job and it allowed the metropolitan to slowly distance himself from me. However, with all tribulations prior to and during my "full time" employment at the Metropolis of San Francisco I become more and more morally, spiritually, emotionally, socially, financially, etc., impoverished individual. The years of waiting along with these past six months of "working" with the imminent "letting go" made me more and more disappointed and depressed that ultimately I gave up on everything and on everyone. I discontinued with my dissertation at GTU (metropolitan kept bringing more and more what I'm lacking in order to be ordained while at the same time ordaining, as I have mentioned above, individuals of as little as 3 months of some kind quasi-official theological education, even converts to faith who converted as late as 2006 have been ordained by him whereas I still needed everything and anything that the Metropolitan could think of), furthermore, I completely cut myself off from all of my friends (I was simply embarrassed to show up in any social gathering and to be asked one and the same question about work and to tell them that I am still where I was 4, 6, 8 or 9 years ago and with 24,000-30,000$ salary and nothing else), I got financially ruined, and the worse of all, I don't care or bother to fix any segment of my life (I wouldn't accumulate credit card debt, I wouldn't care to pay my credit cards, or pay any of the bills or tickets, I would just let things go without having any responsibility towards them).

I can't fix the past and I don't have enough strength to focus on future in order to make any change.

I did start to learn one new skill and that skill is flying, but the events that continually kept coming up before and after hiring by the Metropolis were just dragging my flying lessons and I wasn't able to make any significant steps in some new directions. When someone is under great pressure he or she should not even

fly if he or she is a pilot let alone to learn how to fly if he/she is a student. Only in the past 6 months, I remember there were several very stressful situations that I was going through and were directly related to the Metropolis - Metropolitan of San Francisco. Perhaps some of those points will be used for my firing. My disagreement with ***Aliki Kiryacou***, which ultimately showed something much bigger than what initially it was, then occasions of harassment by the President of the Cathedral in San Francisco, ***Paul Sogotis***, for numerous petty things, who even if he were to have any serious or significant complaint about me, should have had addressed them to my bosses and not to me, then yelling at me by ***Christo Papademos***, someone who was so disinterested in my personality that after 10 years of me sticking around he could not pronounce correctly my 4-letter name, but who was all of a sudden so informed about my ways "of taking advantage of the Metropolis and of the Metropolitan," and who expressed them "loudly and clearly" that every single individual who was in the Metropolis' building at that time has heard Christo's yelling, then "***Anonymous Letter***" sent to the Archbishop about my "mental instability" and all other lies or taken out of the context facts and events showed me a few things: 1) that I am not treated equally as other employees of the Metropolis, 2) that there is no one there to protect me, and 3) that all fabricated issues that rose up in the past 6 months had the intention to present me in a certain light that will culminate in Administrative Leave and termination. At one point as recently as in October I was so despondent that I started crying in front of my flying instructor. I am literally ***alone*** now in this country, besides the individual reading this email and Hermina here in the US, and my friend Milutin in Europe, no other individuals know or are aware of anything that is going on, not even my family.